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POSTAL FEGULATORY

Postal Regulatory Commission 901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20268-0001

RE: Docket No. RM 2017-12

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Meals on Wheels for WNY and the homebound clients that we serve throughout WNY. We rely on the U.S. Mail to raise funds and communicate with our supporters and constituents. Without the mail, our fundraising would suffer severely and, as a consequence, so would our mission.

We simply do not understand why there is suddenly a need to increase not-for-profit marketing mail rates for the nominal benefit of commercial marketing mail. This would seem to fly in the face of the rationale behind the law granting not-for-profits a discounted rate.

As a practical matter, injecting unanticipated increases such as those proposed by the USPS will mean that our fundraising budget will not be able to keep pace with the increase in postage costs. The inevitable result will be a reduction in our use of the mail, a reduction in our revenues, and, in turn, a reduction in our ability to provide nutritious meals and well-being checks to the homebound vulnerable throughout WNY.

If our postage rates were to increase, say, 5%, and produce a corresponding 5% loss of revenue, we would not able to continue serving everyone in need of healthy meals and would have to consider measures such as a waiting list or curtailing of current services. Please consider the impact that your proposal would have on our safety net organization and thousands of other not-for-profits across the nation.

Please do not change the current system for calculating not-for-profit rates. Implemented by the Postal Service ten years ago, we see no need for a change, especially not one that will do harm to all not-for-profits using the mail.

Sincerely

President & CEO

Meals on Wheels for WNY